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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/781,529	02/09/2001	Yue Ma	55254/38	2689

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09/07/2004

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EXAMINER

POON, KING Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/781,529

Applicant(s)

MA ET AL.

Examiner

King Y. Poon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 7-13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4, 5, 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 6 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 April 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 4, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bloomberg (US 5,181,255).

Regarding claim 1: Bloomberg teaches a system (fig. 1A) for printing documents (fig. 7A), comprising: means (103, column 5, lines 45-50) for generating digital documents having handwritten text and machine printed text (fig. 7A) and for generating a request (the signal sent from 103 to computer 106 that would activate the computer to process the scanned image, column 5, lines 55-65) to print (printer, column 6, lines 1-5) at least one of the digital document; an intelligent printing control interface (computer 106, column 5, lines 55-65) connected to the means for generating which receives the request and selectively (column 6, lines 7-20) processes the request to remove the handwritten text (fig. 7A to fig. 7I); and means (printer, column 6, line 3) connected to the intelligent printing control interface for printing the selectively processed request.

Regarding claim 4: Bloomberg teaches a system (fig. 1A) for copying documents (fig. 7A), comprising: a scanner (103, column 5, lines 45-50) for generating a digital document having handwritten text and machine printed text (fig. 7A) and for generating

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a request (the signal sent from 103 to computer 106 that would activate the computer to process the scanned image, column 5, lines 55-65) to print (printer, column 6, lines 1-5) the digital document; an intelligent printing control interface (computer 106, column 5, lines 55-65) connected to the scanner which receives the request and selectively (column 6, lines 7-20) processes the request to remove the handwritten text (fig. 7A to fig. 7I); and a printer (printer, column 6, line 3) connected to the intelligent printing control interface for printing the selectively processed request.

Regarding claim 14: Bloomberg teaches method for copying and printing documents, (column 6, lines 1-6) comprising the steps of: generating a digital image (column 5, lines 45-55) of a document having both handwritten text and machine printed text (fig. 7A); generating (the signal sent from 103 to computer 106 that would activate the computer to process the scanned image, column 5, lines 55-65) a request to print the digital image; processing the request to selectively remove the handwritten text (column 6, lines 7-20); and transmitting (column 6, lines 1-5) the selectively processed request to a printer for printing thereof.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2, 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bloomberg as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kodaira et al (US 6,043,823).

Regarding claims 2, 5: Bloomberg teaches wherein the intelligent printing control interface further comprises: a virtual printer driver (the software/hardware, column 11, lines 35-40, for receiving image data/signals from scanner 013, fig. 1A) for receiving the request; and a handwriting separation module (the software/hardware, column 11, lines 35-40, that identifies the hand written text such that either the hand written text or the machine printed text are removed) for selectively processing the request, under control of the printing control software/hardware, to remove the handwritten text.

Although a printing control panel for user input are well known in the art to be used with a computer, Bloomberg does not such a printing control panel for determining whether to process the request in a way that the handwritten separation module can selectively processing the request, to remove the handwritten text.

Kodaira, in the same area of using a processor of identifying and removing hand written pattern (column 14, lines 60-67, column 15, lines 1-5) teaches a printing control panel (106, column 6, lines 40-50, column 14, lines 50-60) for determining whether to process a print request in a way that a handwritten separation module (103, 104, column 14, lines 40-50) can selectively processing the request, to remove a handwritten pattern.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Bloomberg to include: a printing

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control panel for determining whether to process the request in a way that the handwritten separation module can selectively processing the request, to remove the handwritten text.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Bloomberg by the teaching of Kodaira because of the following reasons: (a) it would have allowed users to program the computer to select whether to remove the handwritten text; and (b) since most computer requires user's input/program-including Bloomberg's computer, it would have allowed Bloomberg's system to be completed and operable.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 7-13 are allowed.
6. Claims 3, 6, 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to King Y. Poon whose telephone number is (703) 305-0892.

8/24/04

King Y. Poon